CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a video device, a method of determining a portion of a block of data to be
provided to a display device, said method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving said block of data;

b) receiving an input regarding an appearance of said display device;

c) selecting said portion of said block of data to be displayed on said display
device based on said input;

d) formatting said portion of said block of data to create an image frame for said
display device; and

e) communicating said image frame to said display device.

2. The method recited in Claim 1 wherein said video device is a set-top box.

3. The method recited in Claim 1 further comprising the step of storing said
block of data in a memory buffer for subsequent use.

4. The method recited in Claim 1 wherein said input includes display
characteristics of said display device.

5. The method recited in Claim 4 wherein said display characteristics of said
display device include aspect ratio data regarding said display device.

6. The method recited in Claim 4 wherein said display characteristics includes
a screen size and a resolution of said display device.

7. The method recited in Claim 1 wherein said input is provided by said display device.

8. The method recited in Claim 4 wherein said block of data is on-screen display information.

9. The method recited in Claim 8 wherein said on-screen display information is Electronic Program Guide (EPG) information.

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10. The method recited in Claim 1 wherein said portion of said block of data to be displayed and said formatting of said portion of said block of data is adapted for a display device having an aspect ratio of 4:3.

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11. The method recited in Claim 1 wherein said portion of said block of data to be displayed and said formatting of said portion of said block of data is adapted for a display device having an aspect ratio of 16:9.

12. The method recited in Claim 1 wherein input is provided by a user.

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13. The method recited in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

f) selecting a specific portion of said block of data based on a default value for aspect ratio, resolution, and screen size of a class of display devices;

g) communicating an image frame formed by said specific portion of said block of data to said display device;

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h) receiving user input regarding an appearance of said image frame on said display device;

i) repeating steps f) through h) for each of different specific portions of said block of data that are selected based on different available values of aspect ratio, resolution, and screen size of said class of display devices; and

j) identifying a new default value to be used with said display device based upon said input regarding said appearance.

14. A video device comprising:

a receiver unit adapted to receive said block of data;

a processor coupled to said receiver unit; and

a computer readable memory coupled to said processor and containing program instructions stored therein that when executed implement a method for determining a portion of a block of data to be provided to a display device, said method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving said block of data;

b) receiving an input regarding an appearance of said display device;

c) selecting a portion of said block of data to be displayed on said display device based on said input;

d) formatting said portion of said block of data to create an image frame for said display device; and

e) communicating said image frame to said display device.

15. The video device recited in Claim 14 wherein said video device is a set-top box.

17. The video device recited in Claim 14 wherein said input includes display characteristics of said display device.

18. The video device recited in Claim 17 wherein said display characteristics of
5   said display device include aspect ratio data regarding said display device.

19. The video device recited in Claim 17 wherein said display characteristics includes a screen size and a resolution of said display device.

10   20. The video device recited in Claim 14 wherein said input is provided by said display device.

21. The video device recited in Claim 17 wherein said block of data is on-screen display information.

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22. The video device recited in Claim 21 wherein said on-screen display information is Electronic Program Guide (EPG) information.

23. The video device recited in Claim 14 wherein said portion of said block of
20   data to be displayed and said formatting of said portion of said block of data is adapted for a display device having an aspect ratio of 4:3.

24. The video device recited in Claim 14 wherein said portion of said block of data to be displayed and said formatting of said portion of said block of data is adapted
25   for a display device having an aspect ratio of 16:9.

25. The video device recited in Claim 14 wherein input is provided by a user.

26. The video device recited in Claim 11 further comprising the steps of:

f) selecting a specific portion of said block of data based on a minimum possible value for aspect ratio, resolution, and screen size of a class of display devices;

g) communicating an image frame formed by said specific portion of said block of data to said display device;

h) receiving user input regarding an appearance of said image frame on said display device;

i) repeating steps f) through h) for each of different specific portions of said block of data that are selected based on different available values of aspect ratio, resolution, and screen size of said class of display devices; and

j) identifying a default value to be used with said display device based upon said input regarding said appearance.

27. A video display system comprising:

a) a receiver for receiving a block of data corresponding to electronic programming guide (EPG) information;

b) a memory unit for storing information regarding display characteristics of a display screen;

c) a processor for formatting a portion of said EPG information into an array of columns and rows based on said display characteristic of said display screen whereby more columns are displayed if said display characteristics indicate a wide aspect ratio display; and

d) means for providing an output signal to said display screen to display said array.

28. The method recited in Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

f) programming a receiver to automatically implement vertical compression of said block of data with a first aspect ratio for display on said display device having a

5   second aspect ratio.